

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a photoconductive element provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

charging means for uniformly charging the surface of said photoconductive element;

exposing means for exposing the surface of said photoconductive element charged by said charging means for uniformly charging to thereby form a latent image;

a developing unit means for developing configured to develop the latent image with toner, the development unit comprising a development roller by feeding configured to feed said toner to said photoconductive element to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and collecting to collect residual toner left on said photoconductive element after image transfer;

image transferring means for transferring the toner image from said photoconductive element to a subject body;

air sending means for sending air to a space around said photoconductive element; and

air conditioning means for dehumidifying air to be sent by said air sending means for sending.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein dehumidified air output from said air sending means for dehumidifying is sent into an image forming module accommodating said photoconductive element, said charging means for

uniformly charging and said developing means unit and removably mounted to a casing of said apparatus.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said air conditioning means for dehumidifying is disposed in said image forming module.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said charging means for uniformly charging comprises a contact type charger.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said air conditioning means for dehumidifying controls air temperature while dehumidifying air.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toner stored in said developing means unit is produced by polymerization.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of photoconductive elements each being provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

a plurality of charging means each for uniformly charging the surface of one of said plurality of photoconductive elements;

at least one exposing means for exposing the surface of each of said plurality of photoconductive elements charged by one of said charging plurality of means for uniformly charging to thereby form a latent image;

a plurality of developing means units each for developing configured to develop a latent image formed on one of said plurality of photoconductive elements with toner of a particular color, each of the plurality of developing units comprising a developing roller configured to feed said toner of the particular color to one of said plurality of photoconductive elements to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and collecting to collect residual toner left on the one of said plurality of photoconductive element elements after image transfer;

a plurality of image transferring means each for transferring the toner image from one of said plurality of photoconductive elements to a subject body;

air sending means for sending air to spaces around said plurality of photoconductive elements; and

air conditioning means for dehumidifying air to be sent by said air sending means for sending.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein dehumidified air output from said air sending means for sending is sent into a plurality of image forming modules each accommodating one of said plurality of photoconductive elements, one of said plurality of charging means for uniformly charging and one of said plurality of developing means units and removably mounted to a casing of said apparatus.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said air conditioning means for dehumidifying is disposed in each of said plurality of image forming modules.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of charging means for uniformly charging each comprise comprises a contact type charger.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said air conditioning means for dehumidifying controls air temperature while dehumidifying air.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the toner stored in each of said plurality of developing means units is produced by polymerization.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

one photoconductive element provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

one charging means for uniformly charging the surface of said photoconductive element;

one exposing means for exposing the surface of said photoconductive element charged by said charging means for uniformly charging to thereby form a latent image;

a plurality of developing means units arranged around said photoconductive element, and each developing unit storing being configured to store toner of a particular color for developing and to develop the latent image with said toner, and each developing unit comprising a development roller configured to feed said toner to said photoconductive element to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and collecting to collect residual toner left on said photoconductive element after image transfer;

~~one image transferring~~ means for sequentially transferring toner images sequentially formed on said photoconductive element to a subject body one above the other;

~~air sending~~ means for sending air to a space around said photoconductive element;

and

~~air conditioning~~ means for dehumidifying air to be sent by said ~~air sending~~ means for sending.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein dehumidified air output from said ~~air sending~~ means for sending is sent into an image forming module accommodating said photoconductive element, said ~~charging~~ means for uniformly charging and said plurality of developing ~~means~~ units and removably mounted to a casing of said apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said ~~air conditioning~~ means for dehumidifying is disposed in said image forming module.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said ~~charging~~ means for uniformly charging comprises a contact type charger.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said ~~air conditioning~~ means for dehumidifying controls air temperature while dehumidifying air.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the toner stored in each of said plurality of developing ~~means~~ unit is produced by polymerization.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a photoconductive element provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

a charger configured to uniformly charge the surface of said photoconductive element;

an exposing unit configured to expose the surface of said photoconductive element charged by said charger to thereby form a latent image;

a developing device configured to develop the latent image with toner, the developing device comprising a development roller configured to feed by feeding said toner to said photoconductive element to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and to collect residual toner left on said photoconductive element after image transfer;

an image transferring device configured to transfer the toner image from said photoconductive element to a subject body;

an air sending device for sending air to a space around said photoconductive element; and

an air conditioning device for dehumidifying air to be sent by said air sending means device.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of photoconductive elements each being provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

a plurality of chargers each being configured to uniformly charge the surface of one of said plurality of photoconductive elements;

at least one exposing unit configured to expose the surface of each of said plurality of photoconductive elements charged by one of said plurality of chargers to thereby form a latent image;

a plurality of developing devices each being configured to develop a latent image formed on one of said plurality of photoconductive elements with toner of a particular color, each of the plurality of developing devices comprising a developing roller configured to feed the toner of the particular color to respective one of the plurality of photoconductive elements to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and to collect residual toner left on the respective one of the plurality of photoconductive element elements after image transfer;

a plurality of image transferring devices each being configured to transfer the toner image from one of said plurality of photoconductive elements to a subject body;

an air sending device configured to send air to spaces around said plurality of photoconductive elements; and

an air conditioning device configured to dehumidify air to be sent by said air sending device.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a photoconductive element provided with a photoconductive layer on a surface thereof;

a charger configured to uniformly charge the surface of said photoconductive element;

an exposing unit configured to expose the surface of said photoconductive element charged by said charger to thereby form a latent image;

a plurality of developing devices arranged around said photoconductive element and each being configured to store toner of a particular color for developing the latent image with said toner, each developing device comprising a developing roller configured to feed the toner to the photoconductive element to thereby produce a corresponding toner image and to collect residual toner left on said photoconductive element after image transfer;

an image transferring device configured to sequentially transfer toner images sequentially formed on said photoconductive element to a subject body one above the other;

an air sending device configured to send air to a space around said photoconductive element; and

an air conditioning device configured to dehumidify air to be sent by said air sending means device.